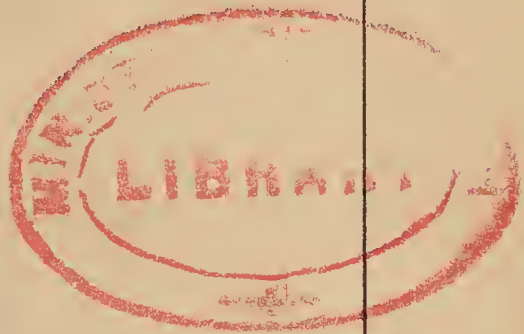


HEALTH
A 25 MAY 1944
C.R.

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



OF

Medical Officer
of Health

FOR THE YEARS 1939, 1940, 1941 & 1942.

G. H. H. WAYLEN, M.B., D.P.H., Cantab.
Medical Officer of Health for the Devizes Rural Sanitary District.

DEVIZES
Wiltshire Gazette Printing Works
1943

DEVIZES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEARS 1939, 1940, 1941, AND 1942.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit herewith my Annual Reports on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the years 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1942.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

G. H. H. WAYLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

41, Long Street, Devizes.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | 1939. | 1940. | 1941. | 1942. |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Areas in acres | 63,515 | 63,515 | 63,515 | 63,515 |
| Population | 12,870 | 14,750 | 15,110 | 14,060 |
| No. of inhabited houses | 3,363 | 3,373 | 3,368 | 3,368 |
| Rateable Value | £49,935 | £51,867 | £59,360 | £60,000 (approx.) |
| Product of 1d. rate ... | £216 - 11 - 7 | £219 - 16 - 7 | £264 - 8 - 4 | £265 |

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Live Births | M.82 F.80 | M.108 F.98 | M.109 F.119 | M.119 F. 92 |
| Total | 162 | 206 | 228 | 211 |
| Legitimate | M.80 F.77 | M.104 F. 97 | M.103 F.111 | M.114 F. 83 |
| Illegitimate | M. 2 F. 3 | M. 4 F. 4 | M. 6 F. 8 | M. 5 F. 9 |
| Still Births. | | | | |
| Legitimate | M. 5 F. 2 | M. 4 F. 4 | M. 2 F. 7 | M. 3 F. 2 |
| Illegitimate | M. 1 F. 0 | M. 0 F. 0 | M. 0 F. 0 | M. 0 F. 0 |
| | M. 6 F. 2 | M. 4 F. 4 | M. 2 F. 7 | M. 3 F. 2 |

Live Birth Rate.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Resident | 12.6 | 14.0 | 15.1 | 15.0 |
| England and Wales ... | 15.0 | 14.6 | 14.2 | 15.8 |
| Crude Death Rate ... | 11.9 | 11.3 | 10.5 | 11.2 |

Deaths—Infants under 1 yr.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| All infants | M. 2 F. 3 | M. 2 F. 2 | M. 5 F. 5 | M. 8 F. 4 |
| Total | 5 | 4 | 10 | 12 |
| Legitimate | M. 2 F. 3 | M. 2 F. 2 | M. 5 F. 4 | M. 8 F. 3 |
| Illegitimate | M. 0 F. 0 | M. 0 F. 0 | M. 0 F. 0 | M. 0 F. 1 |

CAUSES OF DEATH RETURNED BY REGISTRAR GENERAL.

| | 1939. | | | 1940. | | | 1941. | | | 1942. | | |
|--|---------------|----|------|-------|----|------|-------|----|------|-------|----|------|
| | M. | F. | Ttl. | M. | F. | Ttl. | M. | F. | Ttl. | M. | F. | Ttl. |
| Typhoid & Pa. Typh. F. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ac. Inf. Tuberculosis ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Respir. Tuberculosis ... | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Other Tuberculosis ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Gen. Paralysis of Insane, | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tabes dorsalis, etc. ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer | 7 | 13 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| „ b. cav. & œsoph. ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| „ uterus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| „ stomach & duodenum | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| „ of breast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| „ of all other sites ... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage ... | 3 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 9 | 22 | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| Heart Disease | 25 | 24 | 49 | 12 | 10 | 22 | 24 | 22 | 46 | 12 | 12 | 24 |
| Aneurysm | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other circulat. diseases | 10 | 11 | 21 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Bronchitis | 1 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| Other resp. diseases ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Peptic Ulcer | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Appendicitis | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Nephritis | 3 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| Digestive diseases ... | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Premature Birth congenital deb., malformations, etc. ... | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Senility | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Road Traffic Accidents... | Not recorded. | | | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other violence | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Other def. diseases ... | 4 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 14 | 15 | 10 | 25 |
| Special Causes. —Syphilitic disease. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Smallpox | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Poliomyelitis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polio encephalitis ... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

CRUDE DEATH RATE 11.9 11.3 10.5 11.2

ENGLAND & WALES 12.1 14.3 12.9 11.6

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Medical Officer of Health—G. H. H. Waylen, M.B., D.P.H. Cantab.

Sanitary Inspector (also Surveyor and Water Engineer).—S. C. Drabble, A.I.A.S., C.R.S.I.J.B., M.S.I.A. (Mr. Drabble holds a dual appointment, being employed by both the Borough and Rural Councils).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.—Dennis Howells, C.R.S.I.J.B. (until November, 1939. Now serving in H.M. Forces).

Ambulance Service.—Served as to general sickness by Devizes Borough Ambulance.

Nursing in the Home.—Nurses supported by District Nursing Association available over most of area.

Clinic and Treatment Centre.

(a) The Devizes Orthopædic Clinic treated cases from the area during 1939, 1940, and 1941.

(b) Some cases from Devizes R.D.C. area also attend at the Infant Welfare Centre, Devizes.

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

During the four years of War this hospital has pulled its weight, and the number of beds have doubled from 46 to 92. It has admitted and treated Service personnel under the Emergency Medical Scheme and is the only voluntary hospital to do so in the County. It is now served by a full range of consultants from larger hospitals at Bath and Bristol, has a full time radiologist, and a new Physio-Therapy Dept., small admittedly but very active.

It now ranks as an Emergency Service Hospital, Class 1A.

| Admissions. | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| In-Patients | 614 | 1,089 | 1,220 | 1,374 |
| Out-Patient Attendances ... | 3,115 | 3,506 | 6,677 | 10,395 |
| Major Operations | 316 | 550 | 605 | 538 |

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

A glance at the table below will show that the Cubicle Block opened in 1938 has amply justified the cost by enabling all kinds of infectious disease to be treated, and suspicious cases to be sent in for observation. The years under review have been mainly uneventful with the exception of 1940, when an outbreak of Cerebro-spinal-fever enabled the staff to treat this too often fatal infection with the new " Sulpha " drugs, the results being very gratifying. Given early recognition, prompt and adequate treatment, Cerebro-spinal-fever has now largely lost its terrors.

In September, 1940, the large " Scarlet " Block, unused for some time, was loaned to the Wilts County Council for treatment of Pulmonary tuberculosis cases; 28 were so treated up to the year's end.

| Admissions. | Total. | Scarlet Fever. | Diphtheria. | C. Spinal Fever. | Other cases. |
|-------------|--------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1939 ... | 138 | 65 | 9 | 9 | 55 |
| 1940 ... | 247 | 140 | 17 | 33 | 57 |
| 1941 ... | 170 | 79 | 19 | 13 | 59 |
| 1942 ... | 145 | 64 | 2 | 8 | 71 |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING YEARS 1939-40-41-42.

| | 1939. | 1940. | 1941. | 1942. |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Erysipelas | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Scarlet Fever | 31 | 111 | 42 | 34 |
| Diphtheria | 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever (inc. Paratyphoid) ... | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 11 | 27 | 24 | 11 |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever—Civilian ... | 0 | 12 | 2 | 2 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The Council's Regional Water Scheme continues to expand and is gradually replacing contaminated and inadequate well supplies throughout the area of supply. In addition it has materially improved the cleanliness of cowsheds and dairies where it has been laid on. It serves an area of the district containing about 9,000 population, and comes under the supervision of the Engineer (Mr. Drabble). Quantity is adequate, and quality excellent.

Drainage and Sewage.—Considerable trouble has been experienced at Worton with the sewer ditches, and conferences with the County Council and the River Avon Catchment Board have resulted. ~~X~~ Proper sewerage scheme for this Parish, & Great Cheverell, Seend, Bishop's Cannings, Poulshot, Marston, Potterne, Market Lavington, West Lavington, and low-lying Marden. *will be needed as soon as practicable.*

HOUSING.

The actual figures as to houses repaired, condemned or demolished can be obtained from the Sanitary Inspector's report herewith appended.

In November, 1939, the Ministry of Health issued a standstill order to prevent the demolition of any dwellings unfit or not, and this ruling brought your extensive housing programme to a standstill. Altogether more than seven hundred cottages were in course of being dealt with, either having been visited by the Housing Inspection Committee, or waiting upon the office schedules whilst arrangements were made for inspection by Committee. The statutory work involving actual condemnation of 139 houses was not carried out, those scheduled for condemnation by Committee remained untouched, but some of the informal repair work under category "C" did proceed, and houses were repaired after actual new housing had ceased.

A figure of 300 new houses was considered for replacement of unfit dwelling actually to be demolished, but further inspections have revealed that this total would really be inadequate by at least another 100 houses.

You know the position in regard to housing in the Parishes first dealt with, namely, Potterne, Market Lavington, Worton, and Urchfont, but I can assure you that the inspections recorded for Bromham, Seend, and Rowde reveal conditions as bad as anywhere in the area.

SCABIES.

This has been a war time problem of the first magnitude, and at one time I feared that it would get out of hand, but I now feel that it has been checked. The measures adopted in concert with the Devizes Town Council were as follows:—

- (1) Cleansing station for persons and bedding at the local Institution.
- (2) Provision of a special trailer and staff to collect bedding and clothing.
- (3) Dealing with both Borough and Rural as one unit for scabies purposes.
- (4) Investigation and tracing of all likely cases or possible contacts plus helpful co-operation by all local medical practitioners.

Transport was a problem until you provided the Cleansing Trailer. It should be noted that the Cleansing Station would have been impossible without assistance from the County Council Public Assistance Department.

SMALL POX.

A case of malignant Small Pox occurred in the County in July, 1942. After consultation with the County Health Officers, I advised your Authority to facilitate prompt and rapid bulk vaccination and measures were taken to bring this to the notice of the public in the Borough. The Aid Post at the Swimming Pool was utilised and there the public vaccinators, assisted by the Medical Officer of Health, vaccinated and later inspected 2,300 persons in four weeks; of these, over 700 came from the Rural District.

Several hundreds were vaccinated in the surrounding rural villages either communally at Schools, Village Halls, etc., or in their homes.

The Women's Detachment of the Royal Red Cross (Wilts 2) and the W.V.S. gave unstinted and valuable help at the Borough Aid Post, while School Teachers and District Nurses were helpful in their respective villages.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

HOUSING.

| 1. Inspection of dwelling houses during 1939. year. | 1940. | 1941. | 1942. |
|--|---------|--------|--------|
| Total number inspected for defects ... 514 | ... 111 | ... 57 | ... 22 |
| Number of inspections for the purpose ... 1664 | ... 203 | ... 89 | ... 34 |
| Number of dwellings found to be unfit ... 254 | ... 104 | ... 57 | ... 7 |
| Number not in all respects reasonably fit 260 | ... 7 | ... 0 | ... 15 |
| 2. Remedy of defects during year without service of formal notice 29 | ... 16 | ... 21 | ... 12 |
| 3. Statutory Action. Proceedings under Sec. 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936. | | | |
| (a) Demolition Orders 16 | ... 0 | ... 0 | ... 1 |
| (b) Demolished in pursuance of Dem. Orders 1 | ... 2 | ... 0 | ... 4 |

(c) Number of houses reconditioned.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| After formal action | 9 | ... | 4 | ... | 1 | ... | 0 |
| After informal action .. | 16 | ... | 2 | ... | 0 | ... | 0 |

(d) Number of houses subject to Demolition Order, but licenced for occupation under Defence (General Regulations 68A & 68AA)

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| 0 | ... | 0 | ... | 1 | ... | 0 |
|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|

(e) Houses included in Clearance

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| Areas now demolished .. | 0 | ... | 1 | ... | 0 | ... | 0 |
|-------------------------|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|

Housing Accommodation.

Built by Local Authority with State

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| Assistance | 35 | ... | 4 | ... | 0 | ... | 0 |
|-------------------|----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Factories (including factory laundries) inspections

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| 45 | ... | 58 | ... | 31 | ... | 18 |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|

Workshops (including workshop laundries) inspections

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| 197 | ... | 74 | ... | 42 | ... | 36 |
|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

| | 1939. | 1940. | 1941. | 1942. |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total number of persons registered as Cowkeepers, Dairymen, or wholesale purveyors of milk | 301 | 297 | 303 | 303 |
| Inspections during the year | 609 | 794 | 819 | 790 |

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.


Owing to closing down of individual slaughterhouses in 1939 the amount of fresh meat inspected has been small, but the inspection of other foods, especially canned foods, has been much greater.

| | | | | |
|---|------|-----|----|----|
| Fresh meat condemned (in lbs.) ... | 1512 | 38 | 44 | 15 |
| Canned foods condemned in weight (lbs.) Nil ... | 104 | 207 | 91 | |

SUMMARY OF OTHER WORK CARRIED OUT IN SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

| | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|-----|
| Total number of inspections recorded ... | 1621 | 1205 | 1116 | 904 |
| Informal notices served | 22 | 29 | 16 | 6 |
| Informal notices complied with | 19 | 29 | 12 | 6 |
| Additional waterclosets constructed for old property | 1 | 7 | 15 | 3 |
| Additional earthclosets constructed for old property | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Privies converted to earthcloset | 7 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Drains cleansed or repaired | 28 | 21 | 14 | 9 |
| Wells cleansed or repaired | 2 | 7 | 11 | 4 |
| Contaminated water supplies replaced by main | 9 | 17 | 5 | 6 |
| Foul ditches cleansed: | | | | |
| By Council (yards) | 9000 | 5000 | 1200 | 960 |
| By Owners (yards) | 700 | 500 | 200 | 150 |
| Heaps of refuse removed | 24 | 16 | 12 | 4 |
| Bakehouses limewashed | 23 | 19 | 11 | 13 |

Lack of materials and labour has been a factor in preventing improvements being carried out, and there are numerous insanitary conditions outstanding for which there is little hope of betterment until the war time difficulties have ceased.



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